

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

CHILCOTT *gc*

LUND *BT*

THOMPSON

TAYLOR (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....July 12, 2006

Members Present.....Commissioner Greg Chilcott,  
Commissioner Betty Lund and Commissioner Alan Thompson

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

The Board met with Forest Service Employee Dean Bitterman in regard to parking areas, and road issues for operational needs for the upcoming fire season at the airport. Also present was Airport Board Members, Dave Hedditch, Fred Hasskamp and Carl Fox. Interim Airport Manager Page Gough, Road Supervisor David Ohnstad and Civil Counsel James McCubbin were also present.

Dean relayed they had met earlier in the year and went over the Forest Service needs, which included planned activities for the upcoming fire season. Now it is the middle of July, and nothing has been done by the County to implement those plans. He stated their need:

- SEAT base operations need reload at our SEAT base, still do not have that capability. Need 100 X 100 ramp space adjacent to the maintenance building
- Existing access and proposals for heli-base

Dean stated the old operational area is not available, nor is the new operational area. This area needs to be paved.

Dave Hedditch stated they also need a gravel road on the west side of the maintenance building. Dean stated in the winter and spring he put out a briefing document addressing this need, due to the amount of traffic.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he understands they need construction of a new access road between the trap club and the airport, which would be on the west side of the fence line, west of the maintenance building. Page stated that was correct; he anticipates the length of the road to be 7-800' in length. They also need a 100 X 100' parking area. David Ohnstad stated the amount of work depends on the design standards. Dave Hedditch stated they should design it for 24,000 pounds for dual wheel planes. He also stated they could utilize this area when not in use. They would like to have this done as soon as

possible. He noted David Ohnstad contacted WGM Group. They anticipate the costs to be \$21,000.00. Commissioner Chilcott asked if the new Airport engineers could be of assistance. Commissioner Chilcott asked how they could get this done quickly and efficiently. Page stated it is a matter of money. James stated the County could utilize either engineer.

David stated they could build it without a design and they would probably do a good job, but there are some unknowns such as the turning radius of the planes, weights etc., and if it doesn't work, what level of protection does the County have? David stated they would do what is asked, but he does not feel it is equitable for the Road and Bridge department to 'just do it'.

Commissioner Chilcott stated there is a public health and safety concern due to the fire issues. That does broaden the scope of this being an Airport issue. David stated he has no problem, but he does not have the funds to do this, and asked that he be reimbursed for the work. Commissioner Chilcott stated the road department has their gravel pit on Airport property without the airport receiving any compensation.

Discussion included the compliance issues with the F.A.A. and the show of an exchange of services for this gravel between the Airport and the Road and Bridge department.

Commissioner Lund suggested the Road Department go ahead and build this infrastructure, bill the Airport and over time the Airport can pay the Road Department back. David stated his concern is short notice, preparation of work for the surface grading they are currently doing. They can design this in-house and pave it within the overlay contract. He stated some people are going to see them working at the Airport and say they are not working on County roads. Commissioner Chilcott asked why this is not considered a County road. David stated it is a public function but it is not a County road. James stated this is a County road open to the public as it is on County property and is being opened by the Commissioners. David stated that does not make sense, when a road like Meridian that has operated over 100 years is not a County road (Meridian Road), but this road on the Airport property is a County road.

Commissioner Chilcott said the question is do they want to spend \$21,000 for engineering when they can engineer it themselves. David stated they would visit with WMG and obtain some basic information. Commissioner Thompson stated it is important to follow any FAA requirements. David stated he did receive approval from John Styba in regard to these improvements.

Page stated they have given the extra dirt to the Road Department and consider that a form of payment in kind.

James stated this should be a 60' easement. Commissioner Chilcott stated it just does not need to be centered on the easement. David stated they should be able to get the SEAT base done by the end of the month and the road shortly thereafter with the use of overtime.

Dean stated the SEAT base must have the road completed, as they need the other access when the operational area is completed. The Board concurred if a fire event occurred like it did in the year 2000, they could close the runway for the SEAT base operations.

Commissioner Thompson stated his number-one priority is public health and safety and he feels the Airport needs to accommodate the SEAT base activities.

In other business Commissioner Lund attended a Ravalli County Economic Development Authority meeting during the afternoon hours and a City of Hamilton Planning Board meeting during the evening hours.